

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, the method comprising steps of:

a) providing the component with a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations which share a common component interface and semantics;

b) instrumenting the component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of said program;

c) providing the component with a cost estimator for using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of the explicitly selectable implementations in running the program;

d) based on the costs estimated in step (c), using an application program for selecting one of the explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of the program; and

wherein a default implementation is used during said at least partial run.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein selecting step (d) is carried out by another component operable as a controller.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): A computer readable medium readable by a computer and including computer instructions for carrying out a method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, said method comprising the steps of;

a) providing the component with a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations which share a common component interface and semantics;

b) instrumenting the component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of said program;

c) providing the component with a cost estimator for using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of the explicitly selectable implementations in running the program;

d) based on the costs estimated in step (c), using an application program for selecting one of the explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of the program; and

wherein a default implementation is used during said at least partial run.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): A computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein selecting step (d) is carried out by another component operable as a controller.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): A computer program comprising a plurality of components which interact during running thereof, at least one of the components comprising:

- a) a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations;
- b) a common interface and semantics for receiving messages from an other one of the components and sending messages thereto;
- c) an instrumentation for gathering cost-related information during at least a partial run of the computer program;
- d) a cost estimator for using said cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of the explicit selectable alternative implementations; and
- e) a selector, operable to choose an alternative implementation based upon a cost measurement by the instrumentation for choosing one of the alternative implementations in response to a message received at the interface from one of an application program and an other one of the components;

wherein one of the alternative implementations comprises a default implementation which is operational before operation of the selector.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (new) A method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, the method comprising steps of:

- a) providing the component with a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations which share a common component interface and semantics;
- b) instrumenting the component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of said program;
- c) providing the component with a cost estimator for using the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of the explicitly selectable implementations in running the program;

d) based on the costs estimated in step (c), using an application program or another component operable as a controller for selecting one of the explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of the program; and

wherein a default implementation is used during said at least partial run.